American College of Radiology  
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®

Suspected Osteomyelitis of the Foot in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus

Variant 1:  Suspected osteomyelitis of the foot in patients with diabetes mellitus. Initial imaging.

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11 (28366223) 4
12 (21636263) 4
13 (20567730) 4

CT foot with IV contrast  
Usually not appropriate  
Expert Consensus  
✱ <0.1 mSv  
✱✱ 0.03-0.3 mSv [ped]  
1 1 10 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CT foot without IV contrast  
Usually not appropriate  
Expert Consensus  
✱ <0.1 mSv  
✱✱ 0.03-0.3 mSv [ped]  
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CT foot without and with IV contrast  
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✱✱ 0.03-0.3 mSv [ped]  
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MRI foot without IV contrast  
Usually not appropriate  
Expert Consensus  
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O 0 mSv [ped]  
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MRI foot without and with IV contrast  
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Expert Consensus  
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3-phase bone scan foot  
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Expert Consensus  
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### Variant 2:
Soft-tissue swelling without ulcer. Suspected osteomyelitis or early neuropathic arthropathy changes of the foot in patients with diabetes mellitus. Additional imaging following radiographs.

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### MRI foot without IV contrast

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### WBC scan foot

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<td>References</td>
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**Variant 3:** Soft-tissue swelling with ulcer. Suspected osteomyelitis of the foot in patients with diabetes mellitus with or without neuropathic arthropathy. Additional imaging following radiographs.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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References:  
2 (28497161)  
21 (16037509)  
20 (9169715)  
19 (18956147)  
18 (15863990)  
17 (24764120)  
29 (15049523)  
28 (8518119)  
27 (21868781)  
26 (23897135)  
25 (10421237)  
24 (18036160)  
23 (17242312)  
22 (19098186)  

MRI foot without IV contrast  
Usually appropriate  
Strong  
O 0 mSv  
O 0 mSv [ped]  
8 8 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 4 3  

References:  
2 (28497161)  
22 (19098186)  

<p>|                  | May be appropriate | Limited | ☢ &lt;0.1 mSv | ☢☢ 0.03-0.3 mSv | ped | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------|-------------------|---------|------------|-----------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CT foot with IV contrast |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| References       |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 (27587513)     |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 (20567730)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 (29058098)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16 (18025514)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17 (24764120)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| CT foot without IV contrast |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| References       |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 (27587513)     |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 (20567730)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 (29058098)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16 (18025514)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17 (24764120)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3-phase bone scan foot |                |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| References       |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 13 (20567730)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 16 (18025514)    |                   |         |            |                 |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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<tr>
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<th>Study Quality</th>
<th>References</th>
<th>Study Quality</th>
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<td>US foot</td>
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<td>Expert Consensus 0 mSv</td>
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</table>
Appendix Key
A more complete discussion of the items presented below can be found by accessing the supporting documents at the designated hyperlinks.

**Appropriateness Category**: The panel's recommendation for a procedure based on the assessment of the risks and benefits of performing the procedure for the specified clinical scenario.

**SOE**: Strength of Evidence. The assessment of the amount and quality of evidence found in the peer reviewed medical literature for an appropriateness recommendation.

- **References**: The citation number and PMID for the reference(s) associated with the recommendation.
- **Study Quality**: The assessment of the quality of an individual reference based on the number of study quality elements described in the reference.

**RRL**: Relative Radiation Level. A population based assessment of the amount of radiation a typical patient may be exposed to during the specified procedure.

**Rating**: The final rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Median**: The median rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Final tabulations**: A histogram showing the number of panel members who rated the procedure as noted in the column heading (ie, 1, 2, 3, etc.).

Additional supporting documents about the AC methodology and processes can be found at [www.acr.org/ac](http://www.acr.org/ac).